

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The 25 Prophets Named in the Quran

What each is known for, and exactly
where to find the account

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For parents

Twenty-five are NAMED - that is not how many were sent.

The Quran says a messenger was sent to every nation (16:36), and that not all of them were named to us (40:78). "Many more than we know the names of" is the honest answer to a child.

Start with Yunus, then Ibrahim, then Yusuf.

Short, clear, and each ends somewhere a child can rest. Leave Musa until a child can follow a story across several sittings.

Read the reference, not a retelling.

Every row gives the surah and verse. Four verses of the actual Quran with your child is worth more than a page of paraphrase.

"The Quran does not tell us" is a complete answer.

Much of the extra detail in children's prophet books comes from Israiliyyat - earlier traditions, not revelation. Scholars accept what the Quran and authentic Sunnah confirm, reject what they contradict, and neither affirm nor deny the rest.

The 25 prophets named in the Quran

* marks the five Ulul-Azm - the messengers of firm resolve (Quran 33:7, 46:35)

1	Adam	The first human being and the first prophet. Taught the names of all things, tested in the Garden, and taught the words of repentance after he erred.	2:30-39 · 7:11-25 · 20:115-123
2	Idris (Enoch)	Described in the Quran as truthful, a prophet, and patient - and raised by Allah to a high station.	19:56-57 · 21:85
3	Nuh * (Noah)	Called his people to Allah for centuries with almost no one answering. Built the ark on Allah's command; the flood came, and his own son refused to board.	Surah Nuh (71) · 11:25-49 · 26:105-122
4	Hud	Sent to the people of 'Ad, who were powerful builders. He asked them one question they could not answer: why build monuments you will never live in?	7:65-72 · 11:50-60 · 26:123-140
5	Salih	Sent to Thamud, who carved homes into the mountains. Given the sign of the she-camel, which his people were told to leave alone - and did not.	7:73-79 · 11:61-68 · 26:141-159
6	Ibrahim * (Abraham)	Reasoned his way to Allah by looking at the stars, the moon and the sun. Broke his people's idols and left the largest standing so they would ask it themselves. Built the Kaaba with his son Ismail.	6:74-83 · 21:51-73 · 37:83-113 · Surah Ibrahim (14)
7	Lut (Lot)	Ibrahim's nephew, sent to a people who had normalised open wrongdoing and who threatened the guests in his home.	7:80-84 · 11:77-83 · 26:160-175
8	Isma'il (Ishmael)	Left as an infant with his mother Hajar in a barren valley - the origin of Zamzam and of Sa'i between Safa and Marwah. He helped his father raise the foundations of the Kaaba.	2:125-129 · 19:54-55 · 37:100-107
9	Ishaq (Isaac)	The son given to Ibrahim and Sarah in old age - news that made her laugh in disbelief before she believed it.	11:69-73 · 37:112-113 · 51:24-30
10	Ya'qub (Jacob)	Yusuf's father. The Quran gives him one of its most quoted phrases: sabrun jamil - beautiful patience - said while he was grieving and could do nothing.	12:4-6, 12:83-87 · 2:132-133
11	Yusuf (Joseph)	The only prophet whose story the Quran tells from beginning to end in a single surah, called ahsan al-qasas, the best of stories. Thrown in a well by his brothers, sold, imprisoned unjustly, raised to authority in Egypt - and then he forgave them.	Surah Yusuf (12), complete
12	Ayyub (Job)	Lost his health, his wealth and his children, and is remembered in the Quran for one sentence: "We found him patient. What an excellent servant."	21:83-84 · 38:41-44
13	Shu'ayb (Jethro)	Sent to Madyan, a trading people who cheated with weights and measures. His message is the clearest Quranic link between worship and honest business.	7:85-93 · 11:84-95 · 26:176-191
14	Musa * (Moses)	Mentioned more than any other prophet in the Quran. Raised in Pharaoh's own household, spoke with Allah directly, led his people out, and was given the Torah.	Surah Ta-Ha (20) · Surah al-Qasas (28) · 7:103-156 · 26:10-68

15	Harun (Aaron)	Musa's older brother, given to him as a helper when Musa asked for one because Harun spoke more clearly than he did.	20:29-36 · 28:34-35 · 7:142
16	Dhul-Kifl	Named twice in the Quran among the patient and the excellent. Very little detail is given - and honest teaching means saying so rather than filling the gap.	21:85 · 38:48
17	Dawud (David)	Given the Zabur. As a young man he defeated Jalut (Goliath). The mountains and birds joined him when he praised Allah, and he was taught to shape iron.	2:251 · 21:78-80 · 34:10-11 · 38:17-26
18	Sulayman (Solomon)	Given a kingdom no one after him would have. He understood the speech of birds and ants, and received the queen of Sheba.	21:81-82 · 27:15-44 · 34:12-14 · 38:30-40
19	Ilyas (Elijah)	Called his people away from the idol Ba'l and back to Allah, the Best of creators.	6:85 · 37:123-132
20	Al-Yasa' (Elisha)	Named among those Allah favoured above the worlds, and among the excellent.	6:86 · 38:48
21	Yunus (Jonah)	Left his people before he was permitted to, and was swallowed by the great fish. His dua from inside three layers of darkness is one of the most recited in the Quran.	21:87-88 · 37:139-148 · Surah Yunus (10)
22	Zakariya (Zechariah)	Prayed quietly for a son when he was old and his wife could not bear children - and was answered.	3:37-41 · 19:2-11 · 21:89-90
23	Yahya (John)	Given wisdom while still a child, and described as honouring his parents, never arrogant and never disobedient.	3:39 · 19:7-15 · 21:90
24	'Isa * (Jesus)	Born to Maryam without a father, by the word of Allah. He spoke from the cradle, was given the Injil, and was raised to Allah. Muslims believe he was not crucified.	3:45-59 · 19:16-36 · 5:110-120 · 4:157-158
25	Muhammad *	The final messenger, sent as a mercy to all the worlds, and the one through whom the Quran was revealed. His life is studied as its own subject, the seerah.	33:40 · 48:29 · 47:2 · 21:107

Scholars have differed over whether a few figures named in the Quran - Dhul-Kifl, Uzair, Luqman, Dhul-Qarnayn - were prophets. Where the sources are uncertain, this sheet says so rather than filling the gap. Surah:verse numbering is universal; read the passage itself with your child. maktab-quran.com/stories-of-the-prophets-for-kids.html